

CHAD CALLAHAN—EAGLE SCOUT

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, last month, I had the pleasure of presenting Chad Callahan his Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Chad is a graduate of Ocean City High School and is currently studying physics at the University of South Carolina. Chad joined cub scouts in 2nd grade and has been active in the Scouts ever since. Chad's Eagle project was building benches for the local VFW to commemorate his grandfather along with all fallen soldiers. Not only did he commemorate our nation's greatest, but he also provided members a space to meet outside during the pandemic. This young man should be proud of his accomplishments and it was my honor to have the opportunity to recognize him for his service to the South Jersey community. God Bless Chad and God Bless America.

HONORING KENNETH FANNON

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I offer these remarks in honor of Kenneth Gene Fannon of Duffield in Scott County, Virginia, who passed away on October 10, 2021 at the age of 90. I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Fannon. He was a veteran and a well-known community leader in Duffield.

Mr. Fannon was born in Lee County, Virginia on May 15, 1931. He was a graduate of Rye Cove High School and Whitney Business College. Mr. Fannon served in the United States Army as a Corporal during the Korean War. He later became the Commander of Chapter 250 of the Korean War Veteran's Association.

He was a trailblazer for community service activities and veterans' events in Scott County. Over the years, he also served as Scout Master and as a member of numerous local board of directors. He was often recognized for establishing Duffield Daze, Duffield's largest service event. He started it in 1981 as a way to give back to the community through a family-friendly affair that promoted town unity and local business support.

Every time I attended Duffield Daze, Mr. Fannon was there to welcome me. He often reached out to my office to advocate for veterans in the area. He greeted everyone with kindness and generosity. Mr. Fannon was a tireless volunteer that worked hard to make his community and country a better place. He was a staple of so many community endeavors. Mr. Fannon was esteemed by many and will be greatly missed.

Mr. Fannon was preceded in death by his parents, E.D. and Venus Fannon; brothers, Jack and Joe; and sister, Mary Allen. He is survived by his wife, Jean; son, Jack and wife Susan; daughter, Lori Green and husband Daniel; grandchildren, Ruston Fannon, Kevin Wade, and Leslie Guy; great-grandsons, Jackson Guy and Mason Wade; sister, June Fannon, and sister-in-law, Helen Lane. I offer

them my condolences on the loss of this good man.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT GERALD SCHLOSSER, RECIPIENT OF TEXAS' THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2021 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, it is my privilege to honor fifteen distinguished military veterans from Texas' Third Congressional District who answered the call to serve their Nation honorably, both in uniform and following their return to civilian life. The recipients of the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation exemplify the time-honored qualities of patriotism, service before self, and bold leadership. Following their time in service, their efforts in our community have earned these fine individuals recognition as the recipients of this prestigious commendation. Their stories of sacrifice will encourage future generations to pursue a life dedicated to the very values we cherish as Americans: faith, freedom, and democracy. One such hero is Sergeant Gerald Schlosser of Princeton, Texas.

Gerald Schlosser was born and raised in Jersey City, New Jersey, only about a mile from the World Trade Center. Growing up, Gerald was strongly influenced by his uncle, a firefighter for the New York/New Jersey Port Authority and a First Responder to the 9/11 attacks, who instilled in him a sense of duty and service. In 2003, while playing college baseball, Schlosser felt called to enlist in the United States Army. Following Basic Combat Training at Fort Benning, Schlosser was deployed to combat operations in the Global War on Terrorism. He would complete multiple combat deployments to the Middle East, holding positions including rifleman, team leader, and squad leader.

For his efforts, Sergeant Schlosser would earn the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with 2 Campaign Stars, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Superior Unit Award, Army Good Conduct Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. Additionally, Schlosser was awarded a Purple Heart following the rocket ambush of his team's Humvee in Afghanistan during which time he rescued his fellow injured soldiers from the wreckage, sustaining multiple gunshot wounds from enemy fighters.

Following his retirement in 2013, Schlosser began a career as a firefighter, working his way up to Captain in the New Llano Fire Department. He went on to earn his paramedic license and board certification as a Tactical Combat Casualty Care Provider and instructor. His love for Tactical Medicine and desire to become a SWAT medic led him to the Police Academy and a position with the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office. Today, Officer Schlosser serves the City of Princeton as a patrol officer, Field Training Officer, Instructor, and Drug Recognition Expert. Sergeant Gerald Schlosser has served our nation and community with distinction and we are honored to recognize him with this award.

Today a grateful Nation thanks Sergeant Schlosser for his exceptional service and con-

gratulates him on this recognition. May his steadfast example of leadership inspire others to live a life of service to a cause greater than themselves. It is my extreme honor to award him the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

MAYOR GARY GIBERSON

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, "thank you" are two words that will never be enough to say to a man like Mayor Giberson and his devotion to public service. Mayor Gary Giberson exemplifies what it means to be a public servant. Mayor Giberson began as a volunteer firefighter in 1953; the Scout Master of Troop 61 until 1989, and Mayor of Port Republic from 1985 until April 2021. 36 years as an elected official is certainly telling of a man's character, and even more, it's indicative of a respective constituency's pulse. Mayor Giberson truly did keep the Mayberry "feel" relevant, in the City of Port Republic. His tenure in office and the accolades that seemed to flow in naturally over the course of thirty-six years, has not, and will never go unnoticed. I thank Mayor Giberson for his unwavering dedication and devotion to public service and to the City of Port Republic. God Bless Mayor Giberson, and God Bless America.

TRIBUTE TO DON CHILDERS

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise to wish my good friend, Don Childers from Letcher County, Kentucky a very Happy 90th Birthday.

Don has been a close friend over the years, becoming one of my earliest and strongest political allies in the coalfields of Kentucky's Appalachian region. He has led a remarkable career in the oil industry after starting from humble beginnings in Hellier, Kentucky.

Hard work and determination have defined his storied lifetime. Don put himself through college by driving a coal truck, earning \$13.05 per day. He earned an associate degree from Pikeville College in 1952 and a bachelor's degree in business from the University of Kentucky in 1954. That same year, Don was drafted into the U.S. Army and was stationed in Germany, leaving behind his wife and newborn daughter. After fulfilling the call of duty, he returned to Hellier High School in 1956, where he accepted a job as a teacher and basketball coach. Education, however, became the shortest term of his career.

Six weeks into his new job as a teacher and coach, Don was offered a job with Gulf Oil Corporation as a Territory Manager, spanning 22 counties in southeastern Kentucky. Working with some of the best operators in the region, Don quickly learned the ropes of the petroleum business, leading to speedy promotions within the company. Ten years after working for the Gulf Oil Corporation, Don

asked for the rare opportunity to purchase the Whitesburg operations, so he could raise his family at home in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky. The company accepted his offer and Childers Oil was born. Today, they employ over 1,000 people, including its full-service 24-hour convenience stores and affiliated companies.

The Childers Oil Company has always been a family venture with his wife, Peggy, leading kitchen recipes and retail operations. Their two daughters and son-in-law now play key roles in the company, and the third generation is coming on strong with a full understanding of their grandfather's business philosophy. This family-owned and operated business is also a wonderful steward of the communities they serve, partnering with numerous civic and charitable organizations every year, reinvesting in the region they love so much.

In addition to Don's work in the oil industry, he has tirelessly worked to bring additional jobs and opportunities to the region through his work on the Letcher County Planning Commission, which he established with a group of community leaders 17 years ago. They have patiently advocated for a federal corrections facility to be built in Letcher County to create hundreds of good-paying jobs in Eastern Kentucky. Knowing the additional opportunities that could arise with a new prison, Don also launched the Letcher County Airport Board to meet aviation needs in our mountainous terrain. He is a bold, visionary leader who has inspired many others to think out-of-the-box for innovative industry goals in Eastern Kentucky. Don is also a man of great faith, having dedicated more than 55 years as a member of the Whitesburg First Baptist Church.

I count it a great honor to celebrate Don Childers and his many accomplishments on his 90th birthday. I hope this year is filled with many more blessings for Don and his family.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RUBY DE VERA

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I share that the city of Los Angeles lost another angel earlier this year. Her name was Ruby de Vera and she was a community leader, an activist, and a fierce advocate in Northeast Los Angeles.

Ruby was a remarkable person who worked tirelessly as a champion in both City Hall and out in the community. She was a role model and a true public servant who epitomized the best qualities including courage, selflessness, and an unwavering commitment to justice.

Ruby's lifetime of dedication and service will be remembered and greatly missed by all whom she encountered and all those who were impacted by her leadership. May it bring comfort to her family, friends, and loved ones that so many are celebrating the life she led and praying for them at this time.

CHRISTIAN WOLFE—EAGLE SCOUT

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, ascending to the rank of Eagle Scout is an accomplishment unlike any other. Those involved with the Boy Scouts of America devote their lives to the organization's foundational principles of ethics and morals. They embody what it means to be "physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight." However, their drive and motivation extend far beyond the organization's principles and into the classroom and community. What Christian has accomplished is a culmination of hard work and perseverance. He and his family should be incredibly proud. Make no mistake, his accomplishment serves as a testament to his grandfather's influence in his life. Congratulations on this stellar achievement. God Bless Christian and God Bless America.

RECOGNIZING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS MIKE RUMFIELD, RECIPIENT OF TEXAS' THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2021 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, it is my privilege to honor fifteen distinguished military veterans from Texas' Third Congressional District who answered the call to serve their Nation honorably, both in uniform and following their return to civilian life. The recipients of the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation exemplify the timehonored qualities of patriotism, service before self, and bold leadership. Following their time in service, their efforts in our community have earned these fine individuals recognition as the recipients of this prestigious commendation. Their stories of sacrifice will encourage future generations to pursue a life dedicated to the very values we cherish as Americans: faith, freedom, and democracy. One such hero is Private First Class Mike Rumfield of McKinney, Texas.

Originally from Santa Ana, California, Private First Class Michael Rumfield proudly served in the United States Army for which he was awarded the Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Service Ribbon and Air Assault Badge.

Following his time in service, Mike began a dedicated 20-year career in law enforcement holding positions as a Corrections Officer, Corrections Sergeant, Field Training Officer, SWAT member and Team Leader, Deputy Sheriff, and his current role as Collin County Chief Deputy Constable for Precinct 4. As a Chief Deputy Constable, Rumfield is dedicated to serving the citizens of Collin County in a fair and impartial manner to execute all court orders and to promote a safe and secure environment with the highest level of integrity.

In 2016, along with his wife, Lailani, Rumfield founded the America's Defenders

Foundation which supports disabled veterans that have answered the call of duty to the United States and who have defended our nation's values and families. The organization also maintains an intense motivation to support our nation's law enforcement officers. Their annual Thin Blue Line Ball provides hundreds of law enforcement officers and their spouses an evening of entertainment while raising funds to support their efforts. Additionally, as past President of the Collin County Deputies Association, Mike advocated for Collin County public safety officers while supporting members in times of need.

Chief Deputy Constable Mike Rumfield continues to make a difference in the lives of those whom he serves, and we recognize him for his efforts to support our military, veterans, and first responders.

Today a grateful Nation thanks Private First Class Rumfield for his exceptional service and congratulates him on this recognition. May his steadfast example of leadership inspire others to live a life of service to a cause greater than themselves. It is my extreme honor to award him the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP OF J.D. GROM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW DEMOCRAT COALITION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and leadership of J.D. Grom, Executive Director of the New Democrat Coalition.

J.D. began his tenure as Executive Director when I was Chair of the New Dems. I was immediately impressed by his work ethic, vision, and expertise—qualities that were obvious to everyone who had the opportunity to interact with J.D. over the years. I asked him to do a lot in terms of getting to know the members of the Coalition—what they care about and what's important to the districts they represent—and he stepped up, developing an exceptional understanding of the members and their priorities.

J.D. recently left Capitol Hill to join the Biden Administration in the Department of Commerce, and I know I speak for all members of the New Democrat Coalition when I say he'll be sorely missed.

New Dems have seen so much positive change and growth over the past eight years with J.D. at the helm. Made up of 95 members, New Dems play a critical role in Congress not only in advocating for pragmatic, pro-growth policies, but also in working to bridge the partisan divide and lower the temperature in Washington.

New Dems are focused on moving our nation forward by tackling some of our toughest challenges and delivering results for the American people. J.D.'s outstanding leadership has made these efforts possible.

After working for his hometown Representative, Melissa Bean of Illinois, the Department of Treasury, and four different New Dem Chairs, J.D. has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to service that will carry him far in